

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method of content delivery in a network, comprising:
 associating devices in a Domain Name System (DNS) with cache server systems located in the network and maintaining on each of the cache server systems content stored on an origin server;
 assigning to the DNS devices a common address;
 advertising, by each of the DNS devices, the common address within the network to indicate that the content is available for retrieval from each of the cache server systems by end user systems communicatively connected to the network;
 monitoring one or more load characteristics of one or more of the cache server systems in the network;
 determining if one or more of the load characteristics exceeds a predefined overload metric; and
 for each cache server system having a load characteristic that exceeds the predefined overload metric, discontinuing advertising of the common address by the associated DNS device.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the common address is an anycast address.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the advertising act comprises:
 sending routing information to a plurality of routers in the network in accordance with the Border Gateway Protocol (BGP).
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the cache server systems are geographically distributed across the network.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the DNS devices are collocated with the cache server systems with which the DNS devices are associated.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each cache server system and associated DNS devices are located in a different Internet Service Provider Point of Presence.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each cache server system and associated DNS device is located at or near an entry point of the network.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the cache server systems comprises at least two cache serves connected in a cluster, and wherein the at least two cache servers are coupled to a switch usable to select from among the at least two cache serves based on a selection policy.

10-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising after discontinuing advertisement by a DNS device for an associated cache server system having a load characteristic that exceeds the predefined overload metric, restarting advertising when the load characteristic decreases below the predefined overload metric.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising, if a DNS device discontinues advertisement of it associated cache server system, continuing to use the cache server system by another system that has already resolved a DNS name to the DNS device, until the DNS name expires.

16. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising storing, by each of the routers, multiple routes in association with the common address in a routing table.

17. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

receiving a DNS resolution request at one of the routers, wherein the request specifies the common address and requests resolution of a DNS name;

selecting a route representing the shortest network distance to one of the DNS devices; and

resolving the DNS name to a unique address of the cache server system associated with the one of the DSN devices.

18. (New) A method of content delivery in a network, the method comprising:
- (A) providing a plurality of Domain Name System (DNS) servers, said DNS servers all sharing a common anycast address;
 - (B) providing a plurality of content servers, each of said content servers associated with at least one of said plurality of DNS servers, and each DNS server of said plurality of DNS servers having at least one content server associated therewith;
 - (C) causing said plurality of DNS servers to be authoritative for at least one content provider domain by causing said common anycast address to be associated with said at least one content provider domain;
 - (D) responsive to a request to resolve a hostname in said content provider domain,
 - (d1) causing said hostname to be resolved to said common anycast address by at least one other DNS server, said at least one other DNS server being authoritative for said content provider's domain; and then
 - (d2) by one of said plurality of DNS servers sharing said common anycast address, resolving said hostname to identify at least one of said content servers sites associated with said one of said DNS servers.
19. (New) The method as recited in claim 18 wherein at least some of said plurality of DNS servers are located at network Points of Presence (POPs).
20. (New) The method as recited in claim 19 wherein each of said plurality of DNS servers is located at a network POP.
21. (New) The method as recited in claim 18 wherein each of said plurality of content servers is associated with a network Point of Presence (POP).
22. (New) The method as recited in claim 19 wherein said content servers are grouped into nodes, each node associated with one of said plurality of DNS servers.
23. (New) The method as recited in claim 18 further comprising:
- (E) at one of said identified content servers,

(e1) attempting to serve an object associated with the content provider.

24. (New) The method as recited in claim 23 wherein said step (e1) of attempting comprises:

(e11) if a valid version of said object is available on said one of said identified content servers, serving said object; otherwise

(e12) obtaining the object from a content source and then serving the object.

25. (New) The method as recited in claim 24 wherein, said content source is an origin server associated with said content provider.

26. (New) The method as recited in claim 24 wherein, if a valid version of said object is not available on said one of said identified content servers, said one of said identified content servers uses a table in order to ascertain where to obtain said object.

27. (New) A method of content delivery for delivering content on behalf of a plurality of content providers, the method comprising:

(A) providing a plurality of CDN Domain Name System (DNS) servers, said CDN DNS servers all sharing a common anycast address;

(B) providing a plurality of content server sites, each of said content server sites being associated with one of said CDN DNS servers, and each CDN DNS server having at least one content server site associated therewith;

(C1) causing said common anycast address to be associated with a first domain associated with a first content provider of said plurality of content providers so that said CDN DNS servers are authoritative for said first domain, and

(C2) causing said common anycast address to be associated with a second domain associated with a second content provider of said plurality of content providers so that said CDN DNS servers are authoritative for said second domain;

(D1) responsive to a first request for first content associated with said first content provider, said first request including a first hostname in said first domain,

(d11) causing said first hostname to be resolved to said common anycast address; and then

(d12) by one of said plurality of CDN DNS servers sharing said common anycast address, resolving said first hostname to identify a first content server site associated with said one of said CDN DNS servers; and then

(d13) attempting to serve said first content from a server in said content server site; and

(D2) responsive to a second request for second content associated with said second content provider, said second request including a second hostname in said second domain,

(d21) causing said second hostname to be resolved to said common anycast address; and then

(d22) by one of said plurality of CDN DNS servers sharing said common anycast address, resolving said second hostname to identify a second content server site associated with said one of said CDN DNS servers; and then

(d23) attempting to serve said second content from a server in said second content server site.

28. (New) A content delivery system for delivering content on behalf of a plurality of content providers, each of said content providers having at least one content provider domain associated therewith, the system comprising:

(A) a plurality of CDN Domain Name System (DNS) servers, said CDN DNS servers all sharing a common anycast address, and said CDN DNS servers being authoritative for said content provider domains associated with said plurality of content providers; and

(B) a plurality of content server sites, each of said content server sites associated with at least one of said plurality of DNS servers, and each DNS server of said plurality of DNS servers having at least one content server site associated therewith, wherein

(C) responsive to a request to resolve a hostname in a particular content provider domain of said content provider domains, said particular content provider domain corresponding to a particular content provider, said request to resolve a hostname being associated with an end-user request for content from said particular content provider domain, one of said plurality of CDN DNS servers sharing said common anycast address resolves said hostname to identify at

least one of said content server sites associated with said one of said one of said CDN DNS servers, and wherein said content is served to said end-user from said identified content server site.

29. (New) A method of content delivery, the method comprising:

(A) providing a plurality of CDN Domain Name System (DNS) servers, said DNS servers all sharing a common anycast address, at least some of said plurality of DNS servers being located at network Points of Presence (POPs);

(B) providing a plurality of content servers, each of said content servers associated with at least one of said plurality of CDN DNS servers, and each CDN DNS server of said plurality CDN DNS servers having at least one content server associated therewith, and each of said plurality of content servers being associated with a network Point of Presence (POP);

(C) causing said plurality of DNS servers to be authoritative for at least one content provider domain by causing said common anycast address to be associated with said at least one content provider domain;

(D) responsive to a request to resolve a hostname in said content provider domain,

(d1) causing said hostname to be resolved to said common anycast address by at least one other DNS server, said at least one other DNS server being authoritative for said content provider's domain; and then

(d2) by one of said plurality of DNS servers sharing said common anycast address, resolving said hostname to identify at least one of said content servers sites associated with said one of said DNS servers;

(E) at one of said identified content servers,

(e1) attempting to serve an object associated with the content provider by:

(e11) if a valid version of said object is available on said one of said identified content servers, serving said object; otherwise

(e12) obtaining the object from a content source and then serving the object.